

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 03625 150957Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13
AID-05 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
/113 W

-----103355 151210Z /46

R 150845Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2047
INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USLO RIYADH
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 3625

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SA, AF
SUBJECT: SAUDI VIEWS ON AFGHANISTAN

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH POL COUN ON MAY 14, MFA DIRECTOR FOR AFRICAN AND ASIAN AFFAIRS AHMAD SIRAJ SAID THAT SAG HAS EXTENDED RECOGNITION TO NEW GOVERNMENT IN AFGHANISTAN BUT ONLY AFTER RECEIVING ASSURANCES THAT NEW LEADERS INTENDED TO RETAIN ISLAMIC CHARACTER OF COUNTRY. AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD SAUDI AMBASSADOR THAT THEY WERE NOT COMMUNISTS AND THAT THEY WERE MUSLIMS, INTENDED TO REMAIN MUSLIM, AND INTENDED TO CONTINUE TO FLOOOW ISLAMIC TRADITIONS. FOREIGN MINISTER ALSO TOLD SAUDI AMBASSADOR THAT AFGHANISTAN WAS POOR COUNTRY AND NEEDED AID AND HE INDICATED THAT AFGHANISTAN WOULD FAVOR THOSE COUNTRIES THAT GAVE THE MOST AID. POL COUN ASKED SIRAJ IF HE TOUGHT AFGHANS WERE SINCERE OR WHETHER THEY WERE ATTEMPT-
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ING TO PLAY BOTH SIDES IN ORDER TO EXTRACT MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF FOREIGN AID. SIRAJ SAID THAT WAS GOOD QUESTION AND THAT SAG DID NOT HAVE CLEAR ANSWER. FOR MOMENT, SAG IS DISPOSED TO TAKE AFGHANS AT THEIR WORD BUT TO WATCH CAREFULLY TO SEE HOW THEY BEHAVE. HE URGED THAT SAG AND USG CONSULT COLSELY ON AFGHANISTAN IN ORDER NOT TO MISS OPPORTUNITIES TO COUNTER SOVIET INFLUENCE.

2. SIRAJ SAID THAT AFGHAN AMBASSADOR, WHO HAD RECENTLY BEEN RELIEVED OF HIS DUTIES BY DCM WHO NOW SERVING AS CHARGE, HAS ASKED FOR ASYLUM IN UK. HE SAID THAT AMBASSADOR WAS OF COURSE WELCOME TO STAY IN SAUDI ARABIA AS LONG AS NECESSARY TO PREPARE FOR HIS MOVE TO UK.
WILEY

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Message Attributes

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